

## MELBA'S LOSS PLEASES HER

Divas Returns With Fifteen Pounds Less Than She Took Away—But It's Flesh, Not Money, and Singer Is Happy.

FIRST APPEARANCE UNDER CONSIDERABLE NIGHT.

Cards and Flowers in Profusion Reach Madame's Rooms at the Waldorf, Though Few Visitors Reach Her.

Madame Melba is at least fifteen pounds lighter, and when she steps into the center of the limelight on Friday night as Mimi in "La Boheme" her friends and admirers will certainly note the difference. Madame's maid isn't quite sure about the exact, metrically adjusted avoirdupois reduction, but she feels certain that fifteen pounds is the minimum. And Madame smiled acquiescence, looking as if she wished it were twenty.

The great prima donna is otherwise herself, and looks and acts the same when she appeared at the Metropolitan Opera-House three years ago. This is her first season under the new impresario, Heinrich Conried. Hitherto she knew Grau and Grau knew her, much in the manner of the financiers Lawson and Greene, without the expressed acrimony.

"How do you like Mr. Conried?" was asked.

"Very well, very well. I think we shall get along splendidly," said Madame Melba with the smile that is sometimes seen in her Rosina.

Melba arrived yesterday, after a tour of concert singing in the New England cities. She went directly to the Waldorf-Astoria, where she has a suite of four rooms facing Fifth avenue. Madame Melba travels alone, save for her maid, and is not burdened with animals, birds or fish.

No Menagerie for Her.

"It's too much trouble looking out for pets," said the singer, "going from town to town to have enough without having a menagerie tied to one's tail. No, I have not cultivated that branch of art. I am a great admirer of beautiful dogs and horses—in their proper places. Travelling is hard enough work as it is, and I am not going to burden myself with that kind of excess baggage."

Madame rested nearly all of yesterday. She is getting in trim for Friday night, when she will be heard in one of her favorite and best roles. There were plenty of cards and plenty of flowers sent to the singer, but very few saw her. It is not the townsmen that are coming to see her, but the people that affect the strength of Madame Melba, but she does not want to strain her voice. A lot of the visitors were politely told that she was "at rehearsal," just what rehearsal the maid did not know, but it served in place of the web and wool worn "not at home," and worked in most cases like two charms.

But this morning there will be a real rehearsal. "La Boheme" will be sung on the Metropolitan stage, and Melba will meet the chorus, but very few will see her. The greatest tenors the world has ever known, but New York has not yet heard Melba's serene and pearly voice juxtaposed to that of the popular tenor of today.

"I hope I shall be at my best," said she, "for I want to please New York as much as I can. I shall not go so far as to say I was not born in Melbourne, New York would certainly have been my choice of a birthplace, but the American public has been so kind to me, and I am appreciative."

She used to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" to enraptured and demonstratively patriotic audiences when Roosevelt was storming the high places in far-off Cuba.

Three Years' Absence.

"It is now three years since I have appeared in opera in this city, and since that time I have travelled many thousands of miles, some almost round the world, in fact. Two years ago I crossed the Pacific and visited my aged father and mother in Australia. My father, a large estate in and near the city, and the time I spent there was one of the happiest in my life. To visit one's home after success has come your way and to see the old faces is indeed a pleasure. I went back to Europe, and in October I returned to America for a concert tour. Then I did the same thing this year. I shall sing in opera in the Metropolitan comedy only for a few days, and then resume my concert tour."

DAZZLING DISPLAYS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS.

Lewkowitz's Two Stores Are Filled With Sparkling Gems That All May Buy.

With increased facilities at both his famous stores, one on Sixth avenue, corner Seventeenth street, and the downtown store on Grand street, corner Broadway, L. Lewkowitz, for over forty years an importer of diamonds and manufacturer of jewelry in this city, by wonderful creations in his art, is offering for the Christmas buyers an amazing array of the most desirable wares.

It is possible in either of the Lewkowitz stores for one with little money to spend to purchase genuine diamonds and rich, solid gold jewelry, for the great jeweller has solved the problem of indiscrimination and the richest and the poorest purse may be accommodated at his establishments.

The store on Sixth avenue, corner Seventeenth street, is shown at astonishingly low prices.

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Please Take Small Parcels With You. Kindly Keep to the Right.

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER STORE.  
THE BIG STORE A CITY IN ITSELF  
**SEIGEL COOPER & CO.**  
SIXTH AVE. NEAR THE FOUNTAIN 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> STS.  
NEW YORK.

50 "S. & H." GREEN FREE TRADING STAMPS



Friday and Saturday! New Books containing 50 "S. & H." Green Trading Stamps will be distributed FREE on every floor of the Siegel Cooper Store.

These are extra and will be given in addition to the double stamps in the morning and single stamps until closing hour which regularly accompany purchases in The Big Store.

## Umbrellas for Gifts.

An Umbrella for Christmas is a ways acceptable. They're a perpetual reminder of the giver, and with their serviceableness it is difficult to decide upon anything more appropriate for a friend or relative.

We are offering a high class Umbrella which other stores are selling at \$5.00, in a large variety of gilt or sterling mounted handles, at

2.95

Coverings are of a guaranteed grade of Union Silk—26-inch size for women and 28-inch size for men—frames, ribs and fittings are first quality throughout.

(Main Floor, Front, 18th St.)

## Handkerchiefs

To-morrow we shall place on sale a new assortment of Linen Hemstitched Handkerchiefs, the initial kind, many lots hand embroidered, at prices most inviting to Christmas shoppers.

Our display is the largest of any store in New York and our prices the lowest. Inspection of this special line of Handkerchiefs positively will be of interest to shoppers. They will find in our Handkerchief Store such a variety, so prettily boxed so easily arranged for inspection, that Handkerchief shopping becomes a pleasure.

10c	FOR 12c. 12c. 25c. 50c. 75c. 1.00. 1.50. 2.00. 2.50. 3.00. 3.50. 4.00. 4.50. 5.00. 5.50. 6.00. 6.50. 7.00. 7.50. 8.00. 8.50. 9.00. 9.50. 10.00. 10.50. 11.00. 11.50. 12.00. 12.50. 13.00. 13.50. 14.00. 14.50. 15.00. 15.50. 16.00. 16.50. 17.00. 17.50. 18.00. 18.50. 19.00. 19.50. 20.00. 20.50. 21.00. 21.50. 22.00. 22.50. 23.00. 23.50. 24.00. 24.50. 25.00. 25.50. 26.00. 26.50. 27.00. 27.50. 28.00. 28.50. 29.00. 29.50. 30.00. 30.50. 31.00. 31.50. 32.00. 32.50. 33.00. 33.50. 34.00. 34.50. 35.00. 35.50. 36.00. 36.50. 37.00. 37.50. 38.00. 38.50. 39.00. 39.50. 40.00. 40.50. 41.00. 41.50. 42.00. 42.50. 43.00. 43.50. 44.00. 44.50. 45.00. 45.50. 46.00. 46.50. 47.00. 47.50. 48.00. 48.50. 49.00. 49.50. 50.00. 50.50. 51.00. 51.50. 52.00. 52.50. 53.00. 53.50. 54.00. 54.50. 55.00. 55.50. 56.00. 56.50. 57.00. 57.50. 58.00. 58.50. 59.00. 59.50. 60.00. 60.50. 61.00. 61.50. 62.00. 62.50. 63.00. 63.50. 64.00. 64.50. 65.00. 65.50. 66.00. 66.50. 67.00. 67.50. 68.00. 68.50. 69.00. 69.50. 70.00. 70.50. 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